

Review of the month

Welcome to the *Video World* Reviews pages. Every month we select a broad range of films and ask our panel of critics to give their expert opinions. Naturally all films reviewed by *Video World* have been granted a certificate by the British Board Of Film Censors.

We grade films on the *Video World* thermometer. It goes like this:

If it's great it's hot
If it's bad it's not!

CYBORG COP

**Medusa Home Video/
David Bradley, John Rhys-Davies/18/93 mins
Release date - June 3rd**

BRAINDEAD

MINDBLOWING

Medusa have got one of their best movies for some time here, a guaranteed video blockbuster that cheerfully rips off *The Terminator* and then chucks in a decent dose of martial arts action - courtesy of beefy *American Ninja* star David Bradley - to keep the blood and thunder crowd happy.

It starts as it means to go on, with a violent shootout between a mother-obsessed psycho rapist (there are a lot of them about nowadays) and two cop brothers (Bradley and Rufus Swart). The crazy has a female captive, and Bradley has been told to wait for backup, but he subscribes to the *Dirty Harry* school of psychological rehabilitation, and blasts the



loony's brains out. It

then transpires that the nutter was the son of some important publisher, so the boys are busted for their viciousness and told they will be forced to work apart in future.

Bradley says a fond farewell to Swart, who is sent off to join the Drug Enforcement Agency on a commando raid on the third world power base of some slimy megalomaniac drug dealer. This jungle hell is the domain of power-mad scientist John Rhys-Davies (of *Indiana Jones* fame), who has come up with a new technique for transforming humans into unstoppable cyborgs. It doesn't look too complicated, actually. He just slices the human bodies apart with a laser and bolts on metal arms and legs!

Of course Rhys-Davies gets the chance to demonstrate his awesome, Frankenstein-like creation when the commandoes drop in. It strides through the jungle shrugging off bullets and wasting the good guys right, left and centre. Then when it comes across Swart it extends its fingers into long knives and chops his hand off at the wrist. That's because Rhys-Davies wants the agile American taken prisoner and transformed into his next cyborg subject.

It's not long (the next scene, actually) before Bradley hears his brother has gone missing and decides to embark upon a solo rescue mission. Along the way he demolishes literally scores of baddies in well-choreographed action scenes, and takes time to share the obligatory nude shower scene with sexy journalist Alonna Shaw (last seen in *Double Impact*). And eventually he confronts Rhys-Davies and his assorted crooked pals for an explosive climax which sees him squaring up to two unstoppable cyborg creations - one of whom is his own brother.

The leather-jacketed Bradley looks good and acts almost as capably as he Karate kicks, but the film is completely stolen by Rhys-Davies, playing one of the quirkiest screen baddies you're ever likely to encounter. Berating one of his henchmen for splattering somebody's brains across a wall he just had painted, he says: "Oooh, I could shake you at times!" And after concluding a big business deal by having his cyborg punch a hole through someone's face, he suggests: "Right, shall we all have a nice cup of tea, then?"

If we were going to be picky, we might complain that the plot gets a little predictable in places and say that we could have done with a little less of the unconvincing romantic subplot between Bradley and the aggravatingly bimboesque Alonna Shaw. But it's unlikely your fingers will stray anywhere near the fast forward button, because there's gore galore and plenty of explosive action to take your mind off the corny plot and dialogue and keep you entertained right to the end. In the final analysis this is a cracker of a bread-and-butter action movie that deserves to cop a place at the top of the rental charts.

Roll on the sequel!



